REMARKS

Claims 1-20, 22-24, 27-39, 41, 43-54 are pending in this application. Claims 21, 25, 26, 42 have been cancelled by this response. New claims 47-54 have been added by this response.

The Examiner is thanked for the acknowledgement of the receipt of the priority papers as well as the consideration of the references filed in the Information Disclosure Statements dated January 16, February 27 and March 29, 2002.

Concerning the drawing objection, a complete translation of the present application including the drawings was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 23, 2001. A copy of this translation of the drawings is submitted herewith for the Examiner's convenience. However, in view of the filing of this translation, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's drawing objection is improper in that it overlooks the previously filed translation.

Applicants have presented an amended title and abstract as requested by the Examiner in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Examiner's Office Action.

The Examiner has objected to the claims for being improperly multiply dependent. The attached amendment to the claims corrects the claims so that no multiple-dependent claim depends upon any other multiple dependent claim. Consequently, the Examiner's objection to the claims has been overcome by this response.

The Preferred Embodiments of the Present Application

The present application is generally directed to improvements in systems of written information recording employing a pen for reading positional codes from a writing surface. Such a pen may be the form of a stylus or a writing instrument employing a sensor for sensing the positional code from the writing surface.

In such an input device, it is sometimes desirable to activate one or more predetermined operations utilizing the pen. To facilitate such initiation of predetermined operations, at least one activation icon is provided which may be ticked to recognize a code associated therewith and to initiate the predetermined operation. In other words, the pen, which may be the form of a stylus or virtual pen, or a physical writing instrument, senses a position code provided on the writing surface and based upon sensed codes, determines the presence of an activation icon which initiates a predetermined operation. The claims of the present application are directed, *inter alia,* to the writing surface, the pen, a product, system including the pen, and also the method of using the pen to actuate a activation icon.

The Outstanding Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11, 20-26, 32, 39-40, and 42-46 as being anticipated by the Norwood patent. The Examiner further rejects claims 1-11, 20-26, 32, 39-40, and 42-46 as being allegedly unpatentable over the combination of the Okamoto patent in view of the Ishida patent. These rejections are respectfully traversed to the extent that they apply to the claims of the present application, as amended by this Response.

The claims of the present application, originally drafted for European practice, have been amended to place them in better form for examination in the United States. In revising the claims for the United States, certain claims have been substantively amended to recite greater detail of the environment of the present application, namely information recording systems employing a pen sensing position codes from a writing surface.

The Norwood patent relied on by the Examiner in the Section 102 rejection is directed to a system in which a form or other paper document is overlaid by a transparent digitizing tablet 22 which is coupled to a pen or stylus. The position of the pen or stylus is determined by the cooperation of the pen or stylus with the transparent digitizing tablet 22. Thus, the position of the pen is electronically established by the transparent digitizing tablet in the system of the Norwood device. This contrast to the system of the present application where a position code provided on the writing surface is detected by the pen. Consequently, the Norwood reference does not meet the limitations of the independent claims of the present application for the following reasons.

With respect to independent claim 1, the Norwood device does not disclose a position code provided on the writing surface. With respect to claim 20, this claim also requires the writing surface to be provided with a position identifying code readable from the surface thereof. In the Norwood reference, the surface determines the position of the stylus instead of a reader mounted for movement with the pen.

With respect to independent claim 39, this claim requires the pen to be provided with a position code reader reading a position code provided on the writing surface. This is not present in the Norwood reference for the reason set forth above.

With respect to claim 43, this claim requires a sensing wand adapted to record information electronically from position information and a sensed product supplying the position information. Independent claim 45 is directed to a method of writing information on a replaceable writing surface using a writing wand sensing position directly from the writing surface. Independent claim 46 is directed to a handheld wand comprising a sensor for detecting position on a writing surface.

Each of the above mentioned limitations are directed to the environment of the present application which is materially different from the transparent tablet form of sensing employed by the Norwood reference. It is respectfully submitted that the Norwood reference cannot begin to suggest the problems associated with the utilization of an activation icon in a system in which position is sensed from a writing surface by a pen having a sensor for sensing a position code provided on the writing surface. Consequently, each of the claims, for the reasons set forth above, distinguish over the Norwood reference.

With regard to the Examiner's application of Okamoto and Ishida, these references are similarly deficient. Okamoto allows the use of a handwriting input pen. However, pen position is sensed by a pressure-sensitive tablet which senses the position of the pen. This is similar to Norwood in that it does not utilize a pen including position sensing by sensing a position code provided on the writing surface.

The Ishida reference is relied on to allegedly illustrate the use of an icon. Even assuming Ishida illustrates the use of an icon to initiate a predetermined operation, Ishida cannot suggest how to implement such an icon in a system in which position is detected by a pen from position codes provided on the writing surface. Therefore, Ishida cannot suggest the use of an icon in a system such as that recited in each of the claims of the present application.

For all of the above stated reasons, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections and pass the claims of the present application to Issue.

New claims 47-54 are added by this response. These claims are directed to the subject matter of former claim 42. Favorable consideration and early allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of $110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

The new Abstract has been provided to comply with the Examiner's requirement.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 21, 25, 26, 40, and 42 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A product comprising: [having]

at least one writing surface; [(3) which is provided with]

a position code provided on said writing surface[(5)], which codes a plurality of positions on the writing surface [(3)] to enable electronic recording of information which is being written on the writing surface, by means of a device which detects the position code; and [, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the product also has]

at least one activation icon [(7a-g)] which, when detected by the device, causes the device to initiate a predetermined operation which utilizes the information recorded by the device.

2. (Amended) A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one activation icon [(7a-g)] is provided with the position code [(5)].

3. (Amended) A product as claimed in claim 2, wherein the position code [(5)] extends continuously over the writing surface [(3)] and said at least one activation icon [(7a-g)] in such manner that the activation icon is detectable by means of the position code [(5)] as a predetermined position on the product.

4. (Amended) A product as claimed in claim 2, wherein the position code [(5)] on the writing surface [(3)] is discontinuous with the position code on said at least one activation icon [(7a-g)].

5. (Amended) A product as claimed in claim 4, wherein the position code [(5)] with which said at least one activation icon [(7a-g)] is provided constitutes a first subset of an absolute position code, which codes coordinates for points on an imaginary surface, the first subset coding coordinates for at least one point on the imaginary surface, which point is dedicated to initiation of said operation.

6. (Amended) A product as claimed in claim 4, wherein the position code [(5)] with which said writing surface [(3)] is provided constitutes a second subset of an absolute position code coding coordinates for points on an imaginary surface, the second subset coding coordinates within an area on the imaginary surface, said area being dedicated to electronic recording of information.

7. (Amended) A product as claimed in any one of [the preceding] claims 1-6, which product comprises a character recognition area [(A)] which is provided with the position code [(5)].

9. (Amended) A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one activation icon consists of a plurality of activation icons [(7a-g)] for activating various predetermined operations.

10. (Amended) A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one activation icon [(7a-g)] and the position code [(5)] are optically detectable.

11. (Amended) A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one activation icon [(7a-g)] and the position code [(5)] are detectable by means of one and the same sensor.

12. (Amended) A product as claimed in any one of [the preceding] claims 1 and 9-11, wherein the predetermined operation is an operation from the following group: dialing a telephone number included in the recorded information, sending a fax containing the recorded information, sending an electronic message containing the recorded information, writing address information included in the recorded information in an electronic address book, entering calendar information included in the recorded information in an electronic calendar, entering a task included in the recorded information in an electronic list, printing the recorded information on a printer, and storing the recorded information at a predetermined location.

13. (Amended) A product as claimed in any one of [the preceding] claims 1 and 9-11, wherein the position code comprises a plurality of symbols and wherein each symbol contributes to the coding of more than one position.

14. (Amended) A product as claimed in any one of [the preceding] claims 1 and 9-11, wherein the position code [(5)] comprises a raster and a plurality of symbols, the value of each symbol being determined by the position of a marking [(6)] in relation to said raster.

15. (Amended) A product as claimed in any one of [the preceding] claims 1 and 9-11, said product being a notepad with a plurality of writing surfaces [(3)].

16. (Amended) A product as claimed in claim 15, wherein the position code [(5)] on the various writing surfaces [(3)] codes different positions with differing position code elements.

17. (Amended) A product as claimed in any one of claims 1[-14] and 9-11, which product is a paper product consisting of at least one sheet [(80)] comprising said writing surface, at least part of a surface of the sheet being coated with a preferably weakly adhesive layer [(81)].

19. (Amended) A product as claimed in claim 17 [or 18], wherein the product comprises a plurality of essentially identical sheets.

20. (Amended) An information management device for [information management, which device is adapted to] electronically recording information that is being written on a writing surface, the writing surface being provided with a position code readable from the surface thereof [(33)], comprising: [c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that]

a pen for moving across the writing surface;

a reader mounted for movement with the pen for reading said position code provided on the writing surface;

processing circuitry using the position code read by said reader to develop pen path information, said processing circuitry identifying when said pen interacts with an activation icon to produce a signal to [device is also adapted to] initiate a predetermined operation which utilizes the [electronically recorded] pen path information [when it detects a predetermined activation icon 7a-g)].

22. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 20 [or 21], wherein the device is adapted to detect the activation icon [(7a-g)] by means of the position code [(5)] with which the activation icon is provided.

23. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 20, [which device comprises] wherein said reader includes at least one sensor [(14)] for the electronic recording of the position code read to define the pen path [the] information [that is being written on the writing surface (3)] and of the activation icon [(7a-g)].

24. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the device comprises a single sensor [(14)] for the recording of the information and the activation icon[, which sensor is adapted to provide the recording by recording a position code (5) with which the writing surface and the activation icon are provided].

27. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 23 or 24 [or 25], wherein [the signal processor comprises] said processing circuitry includes a character recognition function which is adapted to convert the recorded information to character-coded format.

28. (Amended) A device as claimed in any one of claims 20, 23, or 24 [-27], wherein the device comprises a memory for storing the recorded information.

29. (Amended) A device as claimed in any one of claims 20, 23, or 24 [-28], wherein the device is adapted to utilize, in the initiation of the predetermined operation, that part of the information which has been recorded from the writing surface during a predetermined period.

30. (Amended) A device as claimed in any one of claims 20, 23, or 24 [-29], wherein the device is adapted to utilize, in the initiation of the predetermined operation, information that has been recorded in a predetermined area on the writing surface.

31. (Amended) A device as claimed in any one of claims 20, 23, or 24 [-30], wherein the device comprises a transceiver [(20)] for wireless short-range communication.

32. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 23 [25 or 26], wherein said at least one sensor [(14)] is arranged in a first casing and the processing circuitry [signal processor (16)] in a second casing.

33. (Amended) A device as claimed in any one of claims 20, 23, or 24 [-31], further comprising a mobile telephone transceiver for transferring the recorded information from the device to an external unit, the predetermined operation being an operation from the following group: dialing a telephone number included in the recorded information, sending a fax containing the recorded information, sending an electronic message with text with the recorded information, and printing the recorded information by means of a printer, and transferring the recorded information to a drawing program.

34. (Amended) A device as claimed in any one of claims 20, 23, or 24 [19-33], wherein the device comprises at least one computer program of the type address book program or calendar program or to-do-list program, the predetermined operation consisting of entering a piece of information contained in the recorded information in a register for use in one of said computer programs.

35. (Amended) A device as claimed in any one of claims 20, 23, or 24 [-34] which device is handheld.

36. (Amended) A device as claimed in any one of claims 20, 23, or 24 [-35] further comprising a pen point [(18)] for writing the information on the writing surface [(3)] while being recorded electronically.

37. (Amended) A device as claimed in any one of claims 20, 23, or 24 [-36] further comprising means for providing a feedback signal to the user when the device detects said at least one activation icon.

38. (Amended) A device as claimed in any one of claims 20, 23, or 24 [-37] further comprising means for indicating when the device detects the position code.

39. (Amended) In a system wherein a pen provided with a position code reader reading a position code provided on a writing surface and on an activation icon representative of an order for an computer controlled action, a [A] computer program for information management, which is stored on a computer-readable storage medium and which performs the steps of [comprises]:

receiving, as an input signal, a plurality of position indications obtained from said position code,

processing received position indications as representing information written by the pen on the writing surface if the position indications belong to a first subset of positions coded by the position code; and

processing a received position indication as a command that a predetermined operation is to be executed, if the position indication belongs to a second subset of positions coded by said position code and issuing instructions for causing the computer to [detect an activation icon and] initiate[, in response to the detection of the activation icon,] a predetermined operation which utilizes [electronically recorded, handwritten] the information written on the writing surface.

43. (Amended) A system for information management, comprising:

a [device] sensing wand [which is] adapted to record information electronically from position information; and

a sensed product, said product supplying the position information to said sensing wand and being [which is] provided with at least one activation icon indicating a predetermined operation,

the [device] sensing wand being adapted to initiate the predetermined operation for the recorded information in response to the detection of said at least one activation icon on the product.

45. (Amended) A method of recording and processing information, comprising the steps of:

writing information on a replaceable writing surface using a writing wand [device] sensing position directly from the writing surface;

recording the written information electronically using the [device] writing wand; and[, c h a r a c t e r i z e d by the step of]

causing the [device] writing wand to carry out a predetermined operation for the recorded information by letting the [device] wand detect an activation icon provided on the writing surface before or after the recording of the written information.

46. (Amended) A handheld [electronic device] wand which is adapted to carry out predetermined operations at the command of a user, the handheld wand comprising: [, c h a r a c t e r i z e d by]

a sensor for detecting position on a writing surface, said sensor identifying at least one activation icon provided on said writing surface, and

a signal processor which is adapted to carry out, in response to the sensor's detection of the activation icon, one of said predetermined operations.

Claims 47-54 have been added.